

the Civil Rights Restoration Act, the Women's Business Ownership Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Caucus members have championed women's issues around the world reaching from Egypt to China. At the U.N. world conferences on women and children, the Caucus brought to the U.N.'s attention the plight of refugees.

Few of these accomplishments would have been possible without the insightful and trail-blazing leaders of women such as Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs. She served nine terms in the House before retiring in 1990. In 1997, Boggs was nominated by President Clinton to be the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican City.

Boggs has served this House and country well, now we have the opportunity to show our gratitude.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor Ambassador and Congresswoman Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs, a great and timeless leader and lady of this House.

I had the privilege of serving with Lindy Boggs from the time I arrived in Congress in 1983 until her congressional retirement in 1991. As a member of the Banking Committee and the Appropriations Committee, she championed many causes including equal credit for women, civil rights, and community development.

Lindy was instrumental in founding the Women's Caucus in 1977 when there were only 15 women in the House. She served as Caucus Secretary. Throughout her congressional career, she was dedicated to improving the lives of women and families.

So, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Caucus, it is only fitting that we honor Lindy's lifelong achievements. Her portrait hangs in the Women's Reading room now renamed The Corinne Lindy Claiborne Bogg Room for years hence.

Lindy has the distinction of being the first woman elected to the House of Representatives from the state of Louisiana and the first woman to chair a national political convention, leading the Democratic National Convention that nominated former President Jimmy Carter in 1976.

She was also America's distinguished Ambassador to the Holy See during the Clinton Administration, the first woman ever appointed to this post.

On April 19, 1977, fifteen Congresswomen held the first meeting of the Women's Caucus. At the time there were a total of 18 female members of the House of Representatives and 2 female Members of the Senate. Twenty five years later, we have 62 female members of the House of Representatives and 13 female members of the Senate. Our progress is slow but steady, a testament to a nation that has expanded liberty for all people since our founding.

With growing strength in numbers, Lindy's bipartisan spirit lives on today. The Congressional Women's Caucus continues to carry the torch for equitable pay, women's health, and child welfare under the leadership of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald of California and Congresswoman Judy Biggert of Illinois.

Lindy's spirit of bipartisanship has served as the key to the Caucus's strength and success, and I am honored to be a co-sponsor of this resolution. As a member of this people's

House and the Women's Caucus for the past 20 years, I extend my sincere admiration and deepest appreciation to Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs for there extraordinary service to the people of the United States and the world and her unwavering dedication to the establishment of the Congressional Women's Caucus. Onward and godspeed to Lindy and her beautiful family.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 439.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 439.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAUL ECKE, JR., TO POINSETTIA INDUSTRY

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 471) to recognize the significant contributions of Paul Ecke, Jr., to the poinsettia industry, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 471

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes Paul Ecke, Jr.'s legendary energy, generosity, integrity, optimism, determination, and love of people which have enabled him to develop the poinsettia industry as well as to touch and improve the lives of children and adults all over the world through his extraordinary contributions; and

(2) extends its condolences to the Ecke Family and to the floral industry on the death of Paul Ecke, Jr., who was a philanthropist, and advocate for education, and a warm, loving, and brilliant human being.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 471.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider H. Res. 471, important legislation introduced by our distinguished and decorated colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

This resolution recognizes the significant contributions of Paul Ecke, Jr., to the horticultural industry and in particular the poinsettia industry.

The poinsettia is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the United States Ambassador to Mexico from 1825 to 1829. Ambassador Poinsett, who collected the flower while serving as Ambassador and sent them to his greenhouse in South Carolina, brought the first poinsettia to the United States.

Since then, the poinsettia has grown to become synonymous with the Christmas holiday season. For more than 150 years, December 12 has been traditionally recognized as National Poinsettia Day. That date marks the death of Ambassador Poinsett.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Ecke, Jr., revolutionized the way poinsettias are bred, produced and sold in the United States, making it the best selling potted flowering plant in the United States and the world.

The poinsettia, which is native to Central America, flourished in Southern Mexico, where the Aztec Indians used it decoratively, for medicine, and for dye for textiles. The poinsettia was first brought to the U.S. by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico from 1825 to 1829.

Ecke Ranch, established by Paul Ecke, Sr., and subsequently owned and developed by Paul Ecke, Jr., created a worldwide poinsettia market. In 2001, poinsettias contributed \$250 million in sales at the wholesale level to the United States economy, and many times that amount to the economies of countries around the world.

□ 1800

This resolution recognizes Paul Ecke, Jr.'s integrity and determination and love of people which have enabled him to develop the poinsettia industry and extends condolences to his family on his death.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the